

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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R 091432Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3903

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

DIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 1908

USCINCEUR FOR POLAD

USDOCOSOUTH FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CY SECRETARY GENERAL

COMMONWEALTH/VISIT TO CYPRUS

1. SHRIDATH RAMPHAL, SECRETARY GENERAL OF COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT, ARRIVED HERE JULY 3 ON OFFICIAL VISIT AS GUEST OF GOC ACCOMPANIED BY HENRY SHYLLON, DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS DIVISION OF COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT, DR. ANDRESTINOS PAPADOPOULOS, ASST. DIRECTOR, AND JEANNE SHOENBERGER, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO MANAGING DIRECTOR OF COMMONWEALTH FUND FOR TECHNICAL COOPERATION.

2. IN COURSE OF THREE-DAY VISIT RAMPHAL MET WITH PRESIDENT

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MAKARIOS, FOREIGN MINISTER CHRISTOPHIDES. TURK CYPRIOT LEADER

DENKTASH, GREEK CYPRIOT NEGOTIATOR PAPADOPOULOS AND U.N. SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE DE CUELLAR AND ALSO ATTENDED U.S. JULY 4 RECEPTION. AT DEPARTURE PRESS CONFERENCE JULY 7 RAMPHAL PLACED HIS VISIT IN CONTEXT DECISION TAKEN AT LAST YEAR'S COMMONWEALTH MEETING AT KINGSTON TO ASSIST TOWARD POLITICAL SETTLEMENT OF CYPRUS PROBLEM AND STATED: "MY PRIMARY OBJECTIVE WAS TO INVESTIGATE, ON BEHALF OF THE COMMONWEALTH, ALL THE WAYS IN WHICH WE CAN HELP MR. WALDHEIM IN CARRYING OUT HIS RESPONSIBILITIES."

3. VISIT RECEIVED SUBSTANTIAL NEWS COVERAGE IN CYPRIOT MEDIA BUT ONLY LIMITED EDITORIAL ATTENTION. PRO-CLERIDES SIMERINI JULY 7 GRUMBLED THAT COMMONWEALTH HAD DONE NOTHING FOR CYPRUS, OBSERVED TURKISH INVASION WITH INDIFFERENCE, AND IS INDISPUTABLY MORALLY BANKRUPT; PAPER HOPED RAMPHAL WOULD CONVEY CYPRIOT DISAPPOINTMENT TO APPROPRIATE PLACES AND SEE WHAT HE COULD DO NOW FOR CYPRUS. PRO-LYSSARIDES TA NEA JULY 9, WHICH FERVENTLY SUPPORTS "INTERNATIONALIZATION" OF CYPRUS PROBLEM, APPLAUDED VISIT, ESPECIALLY RAMPHAL'S ASSURANCE THAT COMMONWEALTH WILL ASSIST U.N. SYG WALDHEIM TO FULFILL HIS MISSION ON CYPRUS.

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH CLEARLY A SUCCESS FROM GOC POINT OF VIEW, VISIT HAS RUFFLED SOME FEATHERS. UN SPECIAL REP DE CUELLAR HAS PRIVATELY EXPRESSED HIS PIQUE AT RAMPHAL'S SEEMINGLY PRE-SUMPTUOUS INJECTION OF COMMONWEALTH INTO CYPRUS PROBLEM AT THIS PARTICULAR MOMENT, WITH HIS PROMISE TO INVESTIGATE WAYS COMMONWEALTH CAN "HELP" DR. WALDHEIM. DE CUELLAR FELT RAMPHAL'S STATEMENTS WERE "GRATUITOUS AND UNHELPFUL." BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER HERE HAS BEEN AT PAINS TO POINT OUT COMMONWEALTH DOES NOT INTEND TO INTERVENE IN CYPRUS PROBLEM AND THAT, IN ANY CASE, RAMPHAL HAD NOT BEEN EMPOWERED TO SPEAK ON BEHALF OF COMMONWEALTH.
CRAWFORD

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